

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 08718 290108Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 MCT-02 ACDA-12 TRSE-00
OMB-01 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
AF-10 /116 W
-----009893 291836Z /46

R 281659Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5544
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USINT HAVANA
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 08718

BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINS, SP, PEPR, SP, AG, LY
SUBJECT: PRESS ALLEGATIONS OF ETA TRAINING IN ALGERIA

REF: MADRID 8589 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: A DETAILED REPORT ON ALLEGED ALGERIAN
SUPPORT FOR THE BASQUE TERRORIST ETA, PUBLISHED JULY 28
BY MADRID'S ABC, AND CERTAIN TO HAVE COME DIRECTLY OR
INDIRECTLY FROM MEMBERS OF THE SPANISH SECURITY SER-
VICES, PROVIDES ADDITIONAL INSIGHT INTO THE GOS'S
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MADRID 08718 290108Z

CONCERN OVER TERRORISM GENERALLY AND ITS SUSPICIONS
ABOUT AN ALGERIAN CONNECTION IN PARTICULAR. WHETHER
OR NOT THESE REPORTS ARE ACCURATE, IT IS CLEAR THAT
THE GOS TAKES THEM VERY SERIOUSLY. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. REPORTED STATEMENTS BY
GEORGIA CONGRESSMAN LARRY MCDONALD CONCERNING THE

TRAINING OF BASQUE TERRORIST ETA UNITS IN ALGERIA BY ALGERIAN AND CUBAN INSTRUCTORS HAD ELICITED ONLY CURSORY SPANISH PRESS COMMENT UNTIL MADRID'S ABC ON JULY 28 PUBLISHED A DETAILED ARTICLE OF ITS OWN ON THE SUBJECT. THE ARTICLE (TEXT BEING POUCHED), WRITTEN BY ABC STAFFER ALFREDO SEMPRUN, "CONFIRMS AND AMPLIFIES ON THE DECLARATIONS OF THE AMERICAN CONGRESSMAN," STATES ABC. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW:

3. ACCORDING TO SEMPRUN, THE ETA LEADERSHIP DECIDED IN APRIL 1976 TO ACCEPT ALGERIA'S OFFER TO TRAIN ETA MEMBERS IN THE USE OF ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES. ETA'S FIRST TASK WAS CAREFULLY TO SELECT 143 CANDIDATES FOR THE ALGERIAN TRAINING, WHICH WAS TO BE CARRIED OUT IN COURSES FOR GROUPS OF NOT LESS THAN 30 PARTICIPANTS. IN ALL, FOUR COURSES WERE HELD. SEMPRUN'S REPORT CONCENTRATES ON ONE WHICH ALLEGEDLY TOOK PLACE DURING THE SUMMER OF 1976; IT WAS THE SECOND SUCH COURSE, HE SAYS, AFTER WHICH TWO MORE TOOK PLACE.

4. SEMPRUN THEN GOES ON IN DETAIL TO NAME THE 28 PARTICIPANTS IN THE COURSE AND TO TRACE THE PROCESS AND ROUTES BY WHICH THEY EVENTUALLY ARRIVED IN ALGIERS, WHERE THEY WERE MET BY A MEMBER OF ETA ACCOMPANIED BY A "HIGH FUNCTIONARY OF THE ALGERIAN POLICE." THE POLICE OFFICIAL COLLECTED THEIR DOCUMENTS AND, BY-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MADRID 08718 290108Z

PASSING AIRPORT PASSENGER CONTROL POINTS, ESCORTED THEM TO UNMARKED CARS WHICH TRANSPORTED THEM DIRECTLY TO THE LOCALITY OF SOUMA, AND FROM THERE TO THE ALGERIAN POLICE TRAINING SCHOOL LOCATED SOME 42 KILOMETERS FROM THE CAPITAL.

5. AT THE SCHOOL, SEMPRUN STATES, THE COURSE PARTICIPANTS HAD TEN INSTRUCTORS, NINE ALGERIANS AND ONE CUBAN. WHILE THERE THEY STUDIED A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS, INCLUDING MAP READING, LOGISTICS, THEORY OF EXPLOSIVES AND MAINTENANCE OF ARMS, AND GUERRILLA TACTICS. THEY ALSO PRACTICED FIRING PISTOLS, RIFLES AND MACHINEGUNS AS WELL AS GRENADE-LAUNCHING AND THE PLACEMENT OF EXPLOSIVE DEVICES. END UNCLASSIFIED.

6. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. IN VIEW OF THE DETAIL CONTAINED IN SEMPRUN'S REPORT, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT HE MUST HAVE RECEIVED HIS INFORMATION DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FROM MEMBERS OF THE SPANISH SECURITY SERVICES. WHETHER THE INFORMATION IS ACCURATE OR NOT, PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ' REMARKS ABOUT ALGERIAN AND LIBYAN SUPPORT FOR SPANISH TERRORISTS (REFTEL) INDICATE THAT THE GOS TAKES THESE REPORTS VERY SERIOUSLY. END CONFIDENTIAL. TODMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, PERSONNEL TRAINING, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MADRID08718
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780312-0224
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780710/aaaaahzy.tel
Line Count: 116
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7c35c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MADRID 8589
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1844441
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS ALLEGATIONS OF ETA TRAINING IN ALGERIA
TAGS: PINS, PEPR, SP, AG, LY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7c35c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014